

WILLIAM FRANCIS was born in London in February 1817. He was educated partly at University College School, but chiefly in France and Germany, at St. Omer, Cravelt, and Gera. He studied at University College, London; then proceeded to the University of Berlin, and afterwards to Giessen, where he took his degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1842. His long residence and frequent travels abroad enabled him to acquire an accurate knowledge of French and German, and brought him into relations with many of the leading men of science on the Continent.

In 1842 he established the *Chemical Gazette*, which he edited until the end of 1859, when it was merged in the *Chemical News*. By means of this publication and by the abstracts and translations which he for many years contributed to the *Philosophical Magazine* he did good service in making known in England the work of Continental chemists. He published in *Taylor's Scientific Memoirs* translations of important foreign papers, including Ohm's *Die galvanische Kette mathematisch bearbeitet*, and Helmholtz's treatise *Die Erhaltung der Kraft*. From 1851 until his death he was one of the editors of the *Philosophical Magazine*, and from 1859 of the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*. His wide acquaintance with different branches of science, as well as with leading scientific men in England and abroad, made him well fitted for these functions, and the sound judgment with which he discharged them is well known.

Dr. Francis was an original member of the Chemical Society, of which he was elected an Associate in 1841, and soon afterwards a Fellow. He was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society in 1844, and of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1851, being with one exception the oldest surviving Fellow of the latter Society. He was also an original member of the Physical Society. For a great part of his life he was actively engaged in business in the firm of Taylor and Francis, printers and publishers, of which he had been a partner since 1852.

Dr. Francis married in 1862 Miss Isabella Gray Taunton, by whom he had two sons and six daughters, all of whom survive him. He died at his residence, the Manor House, Richmond, on the 18th of January 1904.

Dr. C. H. GATTY was born at Crowhurst, in Sussex, on the 6th of March 1836, and was the younger son of Mr. George Gatty, who was a taxing master in Chancery. A keen sportsman and typical English country gentleman, Mr. George Gatty acquired the Felbridge property, one of the finest sporting estates in the neighbourhood, with its beautiful park and surroundings, by purchase from the late Lord Liverpool; and on the premature death of his elder brother Mr. C. H. Gatty became heir to the property. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and possessed very different tastes from those of either his father or his brother, giving up his whole time to scientific and literary study. St. Andrew's University conferred the

degree of LL.D. upon him in recognition of services he rendered to it, and he was also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. After the death of his father, in 1864, he lived with his mother at Felbridge, until she died in 1876, and subsequently his life became akin to that of a recluse and almost a hermit. Like his father he was most munificent in his contributions to anything and everything for the public benefit or advantage. The present Felbridge Church was built by the elder Mr. Gatty, and possesses the remarkable peculiarity of standing in the two Surrey parishes of Godstone and Tandridge, within a quarter of a mile of the Sussex border. Dr. Gatty was chairman of the East Grinstead bench of magistrates in Sussex, and for years attended the bench at Godstone, in Surrey, of which county he was also a justice of the peace. He had no near relations and very few intimate friends, leading, as has been said, the life of a recluse and shutting himself up with his fine and valuable library and instruments. He possessed an elaborate and probably almost unique orrery.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on the 13th of May 1870, and was at one time a regular attendant at our meetings, but never contributed any paper. His scientific interests were largely divided between astronomy and botany. He died at Felbridge on the 12th of December 1903.

W. N.

JAMES GLAISHER, although in early life attached to astronomical pursuits, will be hereafter remembered principally as a meteorologist, not only as having for so many years held the position of Superintendent of the Magnetical and Meteorological Department at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, but also, in a great degree, on account of his independent work in many directions in the cause of meteorological science. A pioneer in meteorology, he very early turned his attention to the organisation of the many amateur meteorological observers dispersed throughout the country, who, hitherto working in an isolated manner, and too often with inferior instruments, became by his vigorous action federated, as it were, into a system having a common object, thus making it possible, with improved instruments and methods, to produce a reliable body of information on the meteorology of the country—an early type of the more extended international systems that became in after years established. He was also largely instrumental in founding the British Meteorological Society, now known as the Royal Meteorological Society, in the early years of which it was by his own personal exertions that the Society was placed on that secure and stable footing the fruits of which the existing Society now enjoys.

It may be convenient, in the first instance, to speak of his astronomical work. Born on the 7th of April 1809 at Rotherhithe, London, Mr. Glaisher was first heard of as receiving